THE PROPHECIE

Of one of His

Maiestie Chaplains,

Concerning the

Plague and Black-patches:

With Mr. Gadburies happy and joyful *Predictions*, for the Decrease of the Plague both in City and Suburbs; The Time when; The Manner how; by God's Permission, and according to Natural Causes; The Effects and Motion of the Planets, and what every Week may produce for the thrice-happy and welcome Abatement of this sad and dismal Pestilence; and the City of *London* to be wholly acquit thereof about [or before] *Christmas*.

London, Printed for *G. Horton*, 1665.

The Prophecie of one of His Majesties Chaplains, concerning the Plague, and Black-Patches.

ALthough after several evil *Aspects*, and *Malevolent Conjunctions* of the *Planets*, after bad Constitutions of the *Air*, and distemper of the *Weather*, after dearth of Corn, and scarcity of Provision, whereby the humors of Mens Bodies have been corrupted, and several *Diseases* have sprung up yet no *Plague* hath followed; and on the contrary, though after the signs of healthy Seasons, plenty of good and wholesome Diet, yea and after a most cold and dry Winter, and in a dry and temperate Summer, the *Plague* hath risen up and spread abroad; yet most commonly there have been some Tokens, Signs, and Fore-runners of it, which have given men an *Alarm* to prepare for it, expect it, and provide against it. From whence also is observable the Causes producing it; Such as are the Position of the Heavens and the Conjunction of *Mars* and *Saturn*; as the Learned Mr *Gadbury* hath most judiciously set forth in those Memorable Predictions hereunto annexed. But first the *Reader* may be pleased to observe, the Signs immanent and approaching of great *Mortalities*; Mr. *Kelway* in the third Chapter of his *Treatise* of the *Plague* printed at *London* 1593. hath these words:

When we see young Children flock themselves together in Companies, and then will fain some of their Company to be dead amongst them, and so will solemnize the Burial in a mournful sort, this is a token which hath been well observed in our Age to fore-shew great Mortality at hand. And 'tis worthy of serious consideration, that about 20 years ago, one of the Chaplains of his late Majesty King *Charles* the First of ever blessed memory, did preach at *Bristol* upon this Text out of *Gen.* 4.15. *And the Lord set a mark upon Cain*; And in his Sermon did speak much against black-patches and beauty-spots; and, among other things, said, that they were Fore runners of other Spots, and Marks of the Plague; and presently, within a very little while after, the Plague brake out among them, and all those persons that did wear them, fled the Town. And when St. *Andrews* Church yard Wall did break or fall down this last Winter, some there were that did prognosticate the coming of the Plague, saying, *It fell in like manner the last great Sickness* in 1625. but what reason they had to say so, is best known to themselves.

Yet true it is, that this black and dismal Cloud was fore-seen and predicted by that great *Artist* in *Astrologie* Mr. *John Gadbury*, in his *Ephemeris* for the present year 1665, in the Moneth of *April*, at which time the Sickness first began to shew it self visible; notwithstanding it took its Rise at Christmas, he himself being visited at that time.

And though the Plague cometh unawares, and seizeth upon a man on a suddain, yet such is the infinite mercy of God, and the providence of Nature, that it giveth alwayes warning enough to any one that will diligently observe it.

The warnings are either a suddain Head-ache, a Vomiting, or a Faintness, with a Chilness, or a Looseness. Each of these Symptomes sheweth, what part of the body hath been first infected; the Head-ache signifies the Brains; the Vomiting the Liver; the Faintness the Heart; and the Looseness, the Stomach and the Guts.

When therefore any one upon a sudden and without evident cause, findeth himself seized with either of these 4 Symptomes, let him fly to Remedies without the losse of a moment of time: For it is one of the easiest *Diseases* in the World to be cured, if it

be taken within 4 hours after the first Invasion; otherways, and for the most part mortal. Now assoon as one findeth himself stricken with any of the foresaid Symptomes, let him presently repair to a clean and warm room, and kindle a wood-fire in the Chimny, to consume and destroy all the infectious vapours, that proceed both from the *Air*, and the infected party: Let the Patient presently be put into a warm bed, wrapped in a sheet and blanket; & then sweat him well, by giving the party some *Venice-Treacle*; and those that have contracted the Plague by a Fright, put a little Saffron into it. *Venice-Treacle* being taken in time, is the onely *Antidote* against all Plagues and Poisons whatsoever.

Vinegar is a most excellent *Antidote* against the Plague, and to drink 2 or 3 Spoonfuls in a Morning is very good. Hence 'tis, that Physitians to suppresse and take away the fiery Venome of *Spurge*, *Laurel*, *Mezereon*, and other Plants, steep them in Vinegar, and so give them safely to their Patients, whereas otherwise they would kill and be a worse Remedy than the *Disease*. And *Dioscorides* saith that it resists all poysons both hot and cold. And *Christoph. a Vega* tells of one that was strangled with a Rope, and did foam about the Mouth, and yet was recovered by drinking Vinegar.

Ceffee is commended against the Contagion; and moderate exercise; be sure to prevent costiveness, and violent passions: Sleep moderately, and after you are up uncover your bed, and open the Curtains to air it, and have the bed well shaken when it is made, for Damps are very dangerous.

To go forth with an empty stomach is unwholsom; bread dipt in Vinegar is very good; but the best Breakfast against the Contagion is Bisket and Raisins.

And as the great Causes of this particular Pest were the Conjunction of *Saturn* and *Jupiter* Octob. 10. 1663. the Conjunction of *Saturn* and *Mars* Nov. 12. 1664. so also are they chief Causes powerfully impelling, that it is to be feared the *Pestilence* we now partake of, will not be the one *moiety* of the *Effects* thence to ensue, or thereon depending. By this connexion of *Causes*, it is somewhat apparent that this *Pest* should have took its *beginning* at the latter end of 1664. and truly had not the *Winter* then been so extreamly sharp (it having a *Frost* of almost ten weeks continuance to-

together) to have kept it back, it had beyond all question broke forth then. Nay, and break forth it did then too, as the Learned Artist in *Astrologie* Mr. *Gadbury*, can experimentally testifie, having been personally visited with it at *Christmas* that year. And many other Patients of Mr. *Josias Westwood* the Chirurgeon, were then also afflicted with the same Distemper, and yet obtained cure against it, the *Air* being then so friendly to *Nature*, and an *Enemy* unto the *Pestilence*. But now let us consider its progress and increase, with the causes thereof, and the possibility of its abatement, with the time when. In this matter I shall consult, but not trouble you with the Figure of the *Suns* Ingress into the Equinoctial Sign *Aries*, for the year 1665. and thence draw down the several Arguments of *encrease* and *abatement*; and because the *Pestilence* was hardly perceptible untill the Month of *June*, I will begin there.

This Month, (as if *God* and *Nature* had appointed the Sickness to be *Ominous* in earnest to these Nations) we may observe two most fatal *transits* to usher it in, *viz.* *Mars* his then coming to the opposite point of the Ascendant, and the *Sun* to the opposite point of *Saturn*; a beginning of a sickness so mischievous, that greater can hardly be; God grant the *end* be not as *inauspicious*: and although (I presume) it will not be of many Months continuance to this great City, yet we are not to suppose a *Pestilence* ended, when it seemingly acquits one place.

In the moneth of *July* it began to encrease considerably, especially toward the latter end there of: there were then six oppositions of the *Erratick Stars*, and two *Eclipses*; and to add to these, *Mars*, *Venus*, and *Mercury*, then came to the Quadrate place of the *Sun*, and to the opposite point of *Saturn* by transit; and the *Sun* then came to the opposition of *Jupiter* both by transit and aspect: all which were very great arguments of its encrease.

In the Month of Aug. *Saturn* comes to the Quadrate place of the *sun*, and will be stationary upon it the Month; the two Eclipses last Month do now begin to operate, which are testimonies of very great augmentation: howbeit the fortunate Planet *Venus* coming to the Sextile of her own place and of the *Moons* at the beginning of the Month; and coming to a Trine of the Sun, the latter end thereof, may so happily contemper the fury of it, that it may not [now] encrease or augment to any exceeding great height.

A part of Septem. is like to prove somewhat dangerous because *Saturn* is in a manner still stationary, and the *Sun* and *Saturn* then come to a Quadrate aspect, and this in ill points of the Vernal Figure, *Mars* and *Jupiter* (who is *Dominus Ascendentis*) then also come to an opposition, and both in square of *Luna*'s place; whence it is probable, that in the second and last weeks of this Month, the *Pest* may admit of an abatement; but indeed, I much fear about the middle of the month an encrease considerable: nevertheless, I hope, and rationally believe (*favente Deo*) that this *Pestilence* cannot ascend to any higher degree, than it may at that time reach unto.

The Month of *October* seems to promise well, and the *Distemper* therein cannot meet with any eminent cause for augmentation: yet I suppose the second and last week will make some slight Offers at an encrease, because then the Sun comes to the opposite place of the *Moon*: and *Venus* hath a progressional motion to the opposition of the Sun, and Quartile of *Saturns* places.

November and *December* in this respect (God not frustrating the course of *second Causes*, or taking advantage of us for *our sins*) I question not will prove very kindly; and the City of *London* will begin to be in a better heart, than in many Moneths before. Howbeit, it cannot be supposed that this *Pestilence* should in so short a time totally vanish; or that so great a Sickness should not leave some unkind impressions behind it; but in comparison of what it hath been, I dare assert, that we shall [then] be (in a manner) wholly acquitted from it, and its violent raging, destructive Qualities and Company.

Lastly, *London* hath at present been the Patient, and hath felt the force of the Almighties scourge to purpose; while most other places of *England* have escaped the *Lash*. I wish with all my soul, that *London* might be the Scape-Goat for them all: but ah, I fear, before the Planet *Saturn* be gotten quite out of *Capricorn*, that those other parts of this Nation will drink deep of the same *Cup*. *God* and *Nature* punish none by *proxy*. It will not be this Cities sufferings, that can excuse other Towns and Cities, from the violent stroak of so insatiate an Enemy. Thus much for the Predictions of the Learned *Gadbury*.

And

And now the great and principal *Antidote* against the *Plague* is, hearty Repententance and fervent *Prayer*: For Prayer upon Repentance is of all things most powerful with God. And as Faith is the best Fence against Fear, so is Patience the best Plaister against Sores: Let the distrust of God's Mercies be far from you, and arise from Sin willingly; Read in the *Bible* daily; take up the Crosse of Christ boldly, and stand to it manfully, bearing all Vitations patiently; pray continually, Rest thankfully, and thou shalt live everlastingly, and come to the Hill of Joy quickly: To which place hasten us good Lord speedily.

FINIS.